

Governor Riley Announces Information Phone Line and Website for Volunteers and Donations

MONTGOMERY – Governor Bob Riley is encouraging those who want to assist the victims of Thursday's devastating tornadoes to call the Governor's Volunteer and Donations information line at 1-877-273-5018 or visit www.ServeAlabama.gov.

"Alabamians are among the most compassionate and caring people in the world, and I know that many are wondering how they can help. This information line and website can help provide them with information they'll need to assist storm victims," Governor Riley said. "I want to thank the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for working with us to provide this information line and website."

Financial contributions made to the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund through www.ServeAlabama.gov or by calling 1-877-273-5018 will go to assist Alabama victims affected by the disaster whose losses are not covered by insurance or Federal Emergency Management Agency claims resulting from a disaster or emergency.

During times of disasters Americans respond with tremendous generosity, however in order for your donations to make the biggest impact there are some important tips to follow:

Financial Contributions are Preferred: This allows relief organizations to purchase exactly what items are needed to assist in the response and recovery efforts. Funds will also provide direct victim assistance.

Confirm the Need Before Collecting: Donors should be wary of anyone who claims that "everything is needed." Many groups have been disappointed that their efforts and the goods they collected were not appreciated. A community hit by disaster, however, does not have the time, manpower or money to sort and dispose of unneeded donations. Get precise information and confirm the need before collecting any donated goods or used clothing.

Volunteer Wisely to Help Others: In a community struggling to respond to and recover from a disaster, an influx of unexpected or unneeded volunteers and donations can make the process even more difficult. Before traveling to the disaster area to help, learn where and when your skills will be needed. Discuss with volunteer organizers how your needs for food, water and shelter will be met while you are volunteering.

For more information on donating and volunteering please call the Governor's Volunteer and Donations information line at 1-877-273-5018.